

METHOD AND DEVICE FOR CONTINUOUS TREATMENT OF COPPER SULPHIDE
CONTAINING ORE BY BIOLOGICAL LEACHING

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ABSTRACT

A method and a device for treating copper sulphide containing ore, includes a step of biological leaching whereby the minerals are subjected in reactors (1) in cascade arrangement, wherein the temperature is maintained between 75°C and 85°C to the action of a bacterial culture, which includes a thermophilic bacterium of the Sulfolobus type, leading to solution heat treating of the copper. The method is characterized in that, during the biological leaching step, the treatment is uninterrupted, the medium containing the bacterial culture being continuously mechanically agitated to ensure oxygenation thereof, and suspension of the solid elements, and the solid mass proportion of the culture medium is maintained above 10%.